

plate and bottom plate together in order to secure the grating sheet to the structural members so as to prevent displacement of the grating sheet from the structural members by extreme wave action;

wherein said apparatus is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform area.

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the [engaging means] securing mechanism is a bolt member shaped and sized for extending through the hole in the top plate and the [slot] opening in the bottom plate for engagement with a threaded nut, the bolt member including a threaded portion for mating with the threaded nut.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the bottom plate has upper and lower surfaces with a channel secured to the lower surface of the bottom plate and aligned with the [slot] opening of the bottom plate.

15. (Amended) A fastening system for securing grating sheets having longitudinal edges comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to structural members of an offshore platform or other similar platform comprising:

elongated generally L-shaped connectors for fastening the longitudinal edges of grating sheets to structural members in a wave zone area of the platform; plate fasteners including a top plate for mounting on an upper surface of the grating sheets, a bottom plate for attaching to the structural members in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheets and [engaging means] a threaded member extending between the top and bottom plates and through an opening in the top plate for engagement with a threaded nut for clamping the top and bottom plates together in order to secure the grating sheets to the structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

whereby the elongated L-shaped connectors together with the plate fasteners provide fastening support for the grating sheets so as to resist vertical and

horizontal wave pressures when secured to the supporting members;  
wherein said system is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able  
to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an  
offshore platform.

Please add the following new claims:

18. An apparatus for securing a grating sheet comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to structural members of an offshore platform or other similar platform, comprising:  
a top plate for mounting on the upper surface of the grating sheet, the top plate having an opening therein;  
a bottom plate being sized and shaped for attaching to the structural support members in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheet; and  
a threaded member extending between the top and bottom plates and through the opening in the top plate for engagement with a threaded nut for attaching the top and bottom plates together from a top surface of the platform in order to secure the grating sheets to the structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;  
wherein said apparatus is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform area.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the top and bottom plates are combined with elongated L-shaped connectors for providing fastening support for the grating sheets so as to resist vertical and horizontal wave pressures when secured to the supporting members.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said corrosion resistant material is fiberglass.

21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said corrosion resistant material is stainless steel.